



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 04-15-2009

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15, 2009

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Janice Dallas, Kerrie Fallon, Maureen St. Hilaire,
Susan James

Members Absent: Lin Baker, Barbara Jones, Kevin O'Brien

Others Present: Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Jane Howard, Vision 2020 Standing Committee
Heidi Hample, Disability Advocate
Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability Programs

Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2009:
The meeting minutes were tabled until the May 2009 Meeting.

Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2009:
The meeting minutes were tabled until the May 2009 Meeting.

Discussion regarding the Job Fair:

Jane Howard said that Greg Ames told her that over two hundred consumers attended the Job Fair. Jane's opinion was that the Job Fair was very successful but was too long at three hours. Jane said that employers that she talked with at the Job Fair were pleased with the Job Fair. Jane said that she was disappointed that members from the National Student Partnership had not attended the Job Fair to assist consumers with writing their resumes as was planned. Jane said that Greg Ames intends to write a press release for the Advocate regarding the Job Fair. Janice Dallas said that the Northeast Collaborative did an excellent job greeting consumers as they entered the Town Hall. Heidi Hample said that McLean Hospital should be recognized for their generosity in providing plants for the event. Kerrie Fallon suggested that if the Commission is involved with another Job Fair that a resource person be available within the Town Hall Auditorium to provide information to consumers.

Discussion about educational issues with Kathleen Bodie:

Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent of Schools, discussed educational issues within the Arlington Public Schools with Commission Members. Kathleen Bodie said that the School Department is trying to thoughtfully create more programs within the district so that fewer students will have to travel out of district. Kathleen Bodie said that next year's School Department Budget should not negatively impact Special Needs Students. Kathleen Bodie said that the Arlington Public Schools are committed to

inclusion and putting students in the least restrictive environment while providing students with all the support that they need. Kathleen Bodie said that at present the Arlington Public School sends twice as many students out of district in comparison to the State average. Kathleen Bodie said that the State average for Special Needs Students is 16% to 17% with Arlington's percentage being slightly higher than the State average.

State Budget:

Barbara Cutler said that Senator Donnelly told the Town's Democratic Committee that without additional tax revenue some State Programs would not be saved.

Curb Cut Ramp Project:

Jack Jones said that the Town Purchasing Department has requested that contractors interested in installing curb cut ramps for the Commission on Disability must submit bids no later than April 30, 2009.

Dog Parks:

Barbara Cutler said that the position of the Commission is dog neutral; however if dog parks are approved the Commission requests that the dog parks be enclosed with fencing.

Mass. Ave. Corridor Project:

Barbara Cutler said that the position of the Commission is that more traffic signals are needed not less as is being proposed by the traffic engineers planning this project along Mass. Ave. Barbara said that the Commission's concern regarding this project is regarding pedestrian safety.

League of Woman Voters Monthly Luncheon held on April 3, 2009:

Kerrie Fallon said that Jack Jones and she attended the League's monthly luncheon and talked about the work of the Commission on Disability as requested by the League of Woman Voters.

Other Business:

Heidi Hample said that George Donahue, Chair of the Watertown Commission on Disability, agreed to attend the Arlington Commission on Disability's May meeting to discuss emergency preparedness. Heidi said that she would follow up to see if he would still be available to attend the May meeting. Kerrie said that she sent a card to Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation, thanking him for his assistance in installing accessible parking spaces near several play fields within the Town.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.